

SANPETE COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING

October 22, 2012, 7:00 P.M.

Gunnison City Hall, 38 West Center, Gunnison, Utah

Present are: Commission Chair Claudia Jarrett, Commissioners Spencer Cox and Steve Frischknecht, County Attorney Brody Keisel, and County Clerk Sandy Neill. Also present are Chris Christianson, Elliott Lips, Garrick Willden, Darrin Robinson, Jesse Trentadue, and various property owners in the Dover Road area.

Meeting is called to order by Commission Chair Claudia Jarrett.

PRESENTATION OF COMPLETED STUDY REGARDING THE FLOODING NEAR DOVER ROAD

Elliott Lips reviews the long history of flooding in the Dover Road area. The position of the river within the flood plain changes. Yuba Reservoir and Piute Reservoir also affect the Sevier River. When the channel is straightened out, you increase the velocity, but the problem is down stream where the sediment accumulates. A lot has happened to this flood plain, both naturally and man made. We don't have control over Yuba and Piute Reservoirs. The study focused on what could be done and what would lead towards long term success.

Jones and DeMille created a model of the 2011 event to see to what degree the Dover Road was causing flooding upstream. They focused on strategies that the NRCS funding would allow, and that would be practical. They modeled the 2011 event, and also a 10 year event. They dredged, and performed minor berming as would be allowed by the NRCS, and ran the events in the model again. Then they put low water crossings in the Dover Road. They also took out the Dover Road. They compare the surfaces, and observe the difference when various changes are made. The low water crossings protect the road. Program funds can't be used to build the road up, and add culverts. This meeting is to see what we can implement to help with the flooding problem. We may not be able to solve the problem completely. Another option with the NRCS is flood easements. The NRCS would purchase easements at the appraised property value. The property owner could still graze, but couldn't build on the property once an easement is given.


DISCUSSION OF STUDY RESULTS AND PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

The proposal is to install low water crossings, increase the channel capacity, install better fence crossings (wood instead of wire), and arranging selling easements to the NRCS. Willows and grasses may be planted, and as much tamarack as possible will be removed. Some state that willows will not grow because the property is too alkaline. This will be reviewed. The property owners are asked to sign access agreements so this work can continue. This is to be able to assess the property for improvements, minor berming, dredging, and possibly rip rap. This agreement is not recorded. The improvements will depend on the funding and the ability to get the necessary permits. Things that may improve your situation may make others worse. They will use their best judgment to make things better for as many as possible. Those who will access the property will give notice in advance of coming on the property, and again notice when a plan is made. The property owner has the right to turn down the plan. The agreement will include maintenance of the improvements for 2 years.

The County is committed to use some of this funding to put in the low water crossings to help move the water across the road. The other 2 pieces of this project will be determined based on getting permits and permission from the property owners

The meeting is adjourned at 8:24 P.M.

ATTEST: 
Sandy Neill
Sanpete County Clerk

APPROVED: 
Claudia Jarrett
Commission Chair